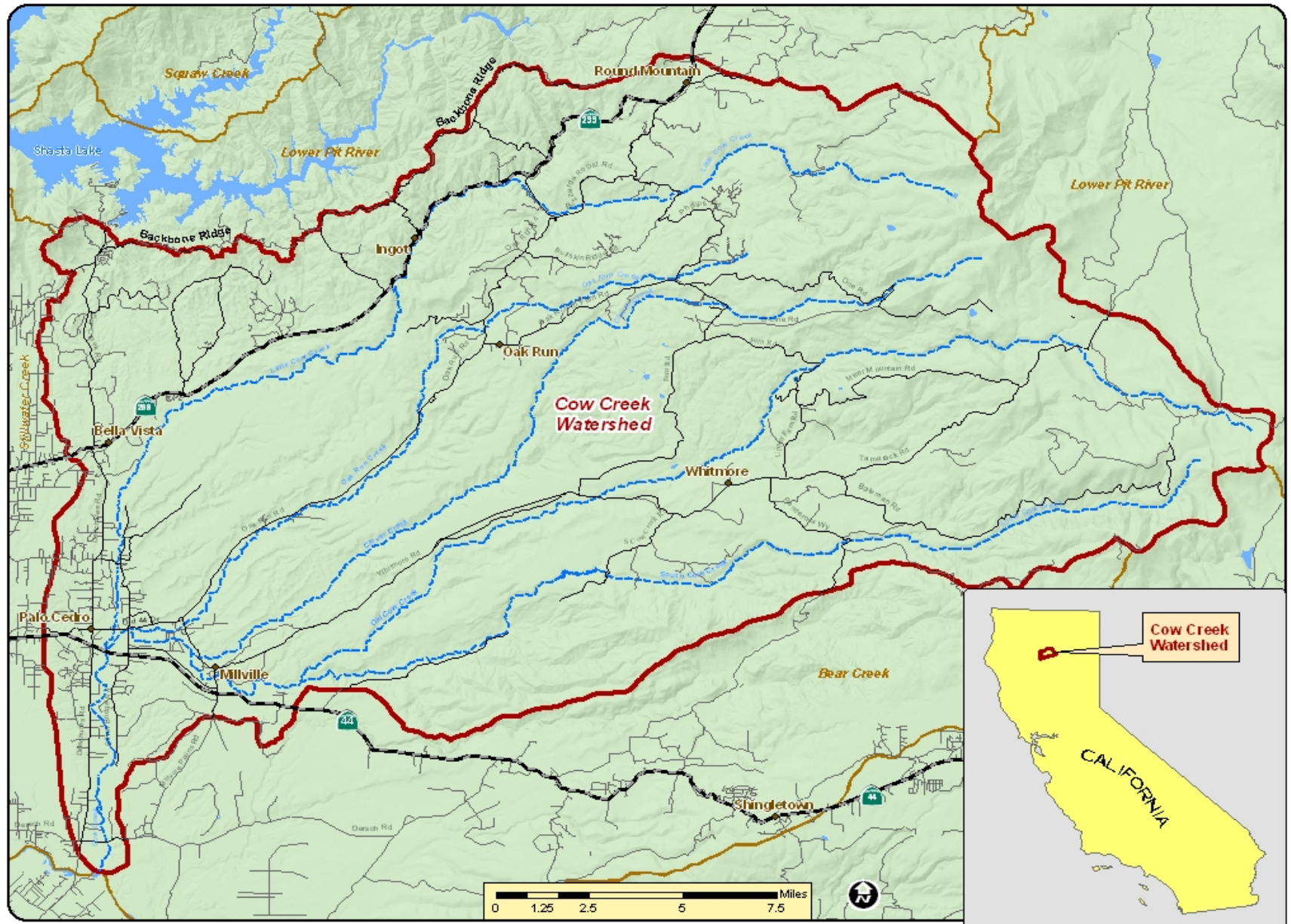


# Cow Creek Watershed Williamson Tailwater Pond

A Working Model  
For Improved  
Water Quality

Mike Harris  
WSRCD

# The Cow Creek Watershed





# Cow Creek Watershed

- 274,684 acres
- 5 sub watersheds
- 164.4 miles of stream
- Land Use
  - 1/3 Rural Residential
  - 1/3 Agriculture
  - 1/3 Timber







# Cow Creek Watershed Management Group

- CCWWMG, a group of concerned landowners and businesses, who have organized with the goal of enhancing the watershed while maintaining viable timber and agriculture industries and the rural way of life.
- Formed in 1999 to provide a forum for local input into the watershed's future and to bring grant funding into the watershed for increased environmental Quality







- Guide the watershed's future through local participation and influence
- Bring much needed funding into the watershed for projects
- Provide education and outreach to watershed residents, landowners and businesses
- Assist other organizations in the watershed accomplish their projects
- Be a voice to maintain the rural way of life in the watershed

# Partners In Water Quality Improvements

- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Game
- National Resource Conservation Service
- California Department of Water Resources
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bay Delta Authority
- State Water Resources Control Board



# 303(d) listing

- South Cow Creek
  - Fecal Coliform (7.9 m)
    - Ag, grazing related, other
- Clover Creek
  - Fecal Coliform (11 m)
    - Agriculture-grazing, other
- Oak Run Creek
  - Fecal Coliform (5.6 m)
    - Combined sewer overflow, agriculture, grazing related sources, pasture-grazing upland natural sources





# Tailwater Project Goals

- Capture irrigation runoff from tailwater ditches
- Improve water quality including reduced turbidity and fecal coliform prior to water release
- Potential for reduction in water temperature.



# Location of Tailwater Pond

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Two Locations
  - Considerations
    - Willing landowners
    - Ability to use project as a demonstration project
    - Applicability to other projects
- Project site selected on a ranch a ¼ mile from Old Cow Creek

# Scope of Work

- Topographic surveys of the pond location
- Hydraulic study to determine size of the tailwater pond
  - In this case the pond site dictated the pond size with a surface area of 0.25 acres and a capacity of 1.25 acre-feet
- Permit development
- Design plans and specifications
- Engineers estimate of cost



# Tailwater Pond Design

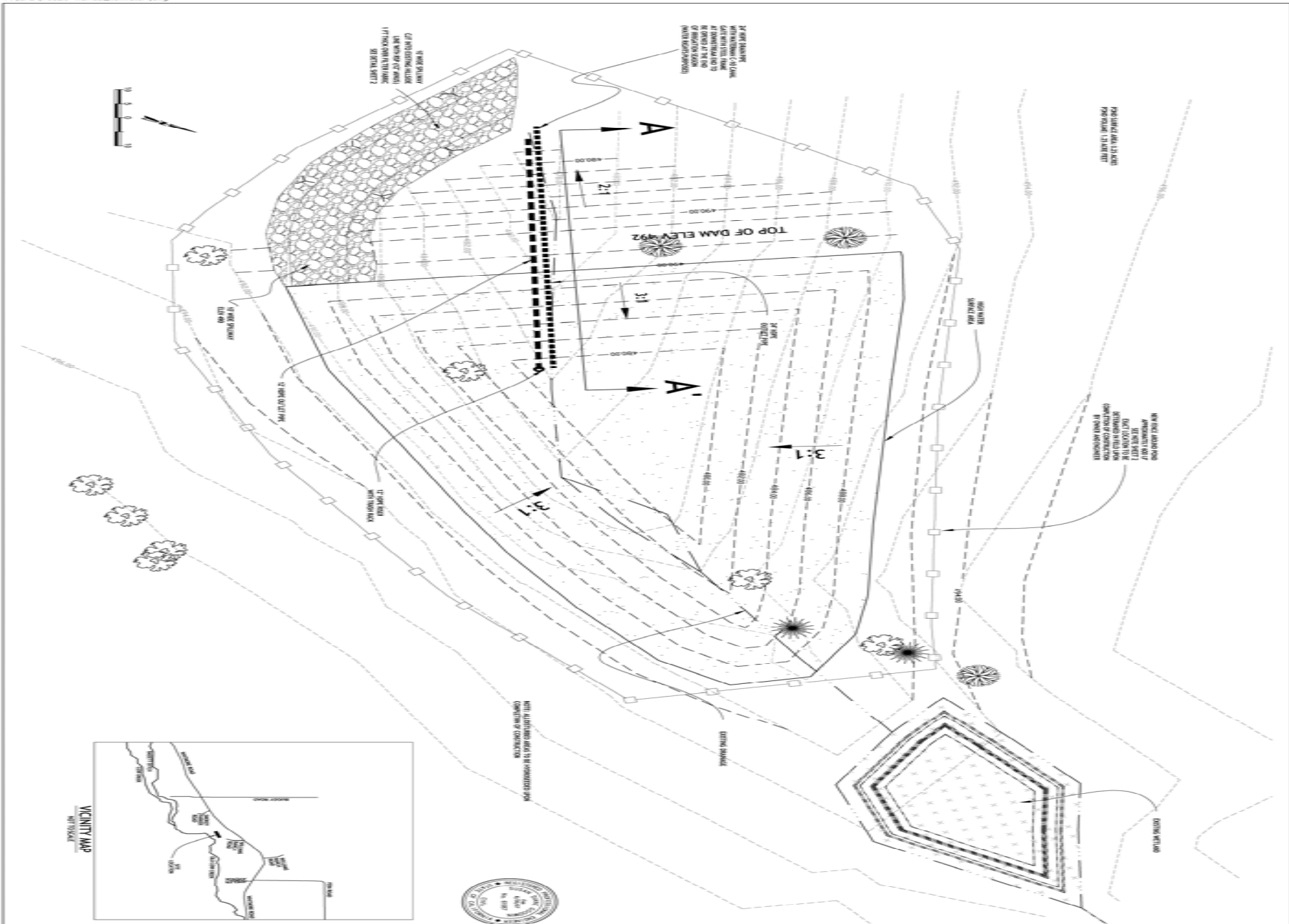
- NRCS guidelines utilized for the design of the pond (USDA, NRCS Agriculture Handbook Number 590)
- Within an ephemeral drainage channel downstream of wetland (delineated and protected)

# Design Continued

- 14 foot height
- Face of Dam 2H:1V
- Sides of Dam 3H:1V
- 24 inch drain pipe with valve installed for post irrigation draining of pond
- 12 inch riser pipe perforated on the lowest 1.5 feet will drain water from bottom of pond
- Design of spillway and drain pipe is for 25 year, 24 hour storm








TAILWATER COLLECTION POND  
WILLIAMS RANCH  
SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

DESIGN: <b>SG</b>			
DRAWN: <b>SG</b>			
CHECK: <b>SG</b>			
APPROVED: <b>SG</b>	NO.	DATE	REVISION

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VERIFY SCALES  
BAR IS ONE INCH ON  
ORIGINAL DRAWING  
1"   
IF NOT ONE INCH ON  
THIS SHEET, ADJUST  
SCALES ACCORDINGLY



# Monitoring

- QAPP Development and Data collection methodology that matches other water quality sampling currently underway
- Temperature, E. coli, turbidity, settleable solids, TDS, nitrate, phosphate, pH, dissolved oxygen.

# Expected Benefits

- Reduced E. coli
- Reduction or no increase in water temperature
- Reduction in turbidity
- Complete technical package for other interested parties.





# Water Quality Monitoring

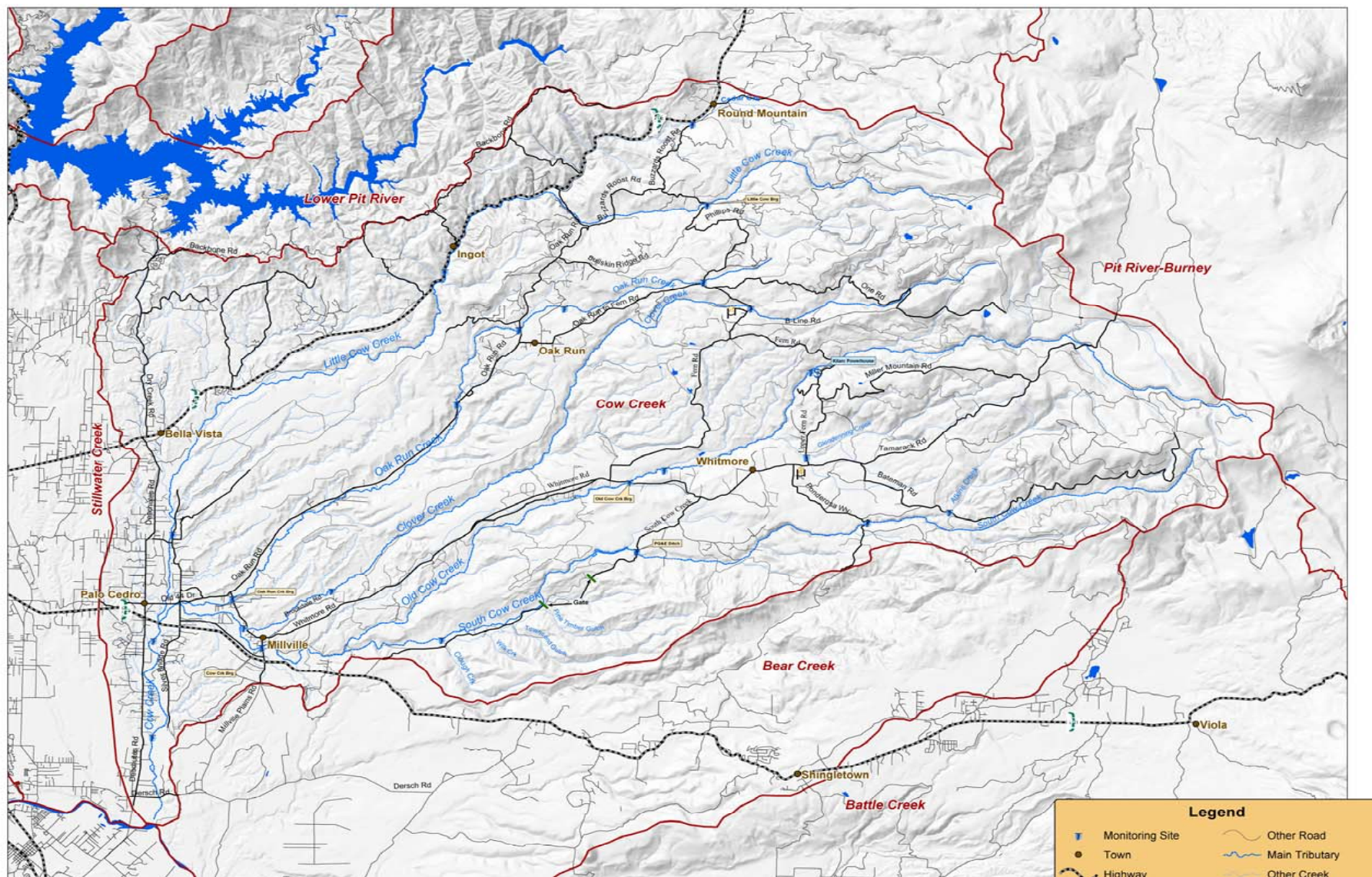
- 21 locations in the watershed
- Low, middle and upper elevations
- E coli and temperature





# Cow Creek Watershed

Water Quality Monitoring Stations, Spring 2004



Updated July 7, 2004  
Western Shasta RCD  
Sources: DFG, CA RWQCB  
Watershed Information Model (WIM)



0 2 4 8 12 Miles

Legend	
	Monitoring Site
	Town
	Highway
	Main Watershed Road
	Other Road
	Main Tributary
	Other Creek
	Watershed Boundary
	Lake



















# Ditch Piping Feasibility Studies

- A limited topographic survey of portions of the ditch to determine the overall slope;
- Hydraulic analysis of the existing and proposed systems based on size and slope of ditch, type of pipe to be used, current amount of water being diverted and total allotment;
- A field verification of the condition on the existing ditch, including any problem areas that may require additional engineering;
- An estimate of the amount of water loss during ditch transport and through loss from vegetation to determine water savings by piping/lining the system;
- Determine possible water saving alternatives for irrigating, such as sprinklers vs. flood irrigation, where conditions allow and systems have not already been established;
- Work with governing agencies to outline a protocol for the dedication of water for in-stream use without the abandonment of water rights by the water rights holder;
- Determination of the permits required for construction;
- A cost estimate including engineering, permitting and construction costs;



# Expected Benefits

- Increased water quality
- Viable Best Management Practices
- Demonstration project for Watershed
- Implementation information for landowners
- Public awareness of BMPs
- Excellent agency-landowner interaction and relationship building
- Increased landowner awareness of funding available to help implement projects
- Large landownership participation

# Outcomes

- Increased water quality awareness
- Demonstration projects with technical information available to landowners
- Baseline data to track trends in water quality
- Removal of the tributaries from the 303d list



# Watershed Approach

- Locally driven effort
- Better support from landowners
- Focus on local issues and solutions
- Development of working relationship with agencies
- The expected outcome of increased water quality
- Remember 1/3 Rural Residential, 1/3 Agriculture and 1/3 Timber